

## Message Text

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63

ORIGIN NEA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66611

DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARN:PKBULLEN:GCB

APPROVED BY: NEA/ARN:DAKORN

----- 047893

P 231812Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ADANA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 6498 ACTION SECSTATE USCINCEUR  
21 MAY.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 6498

DEPT PASS TO ALL NEAR EAST DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 5-21-76

TAGS: PINS, CGEN, LE, US

SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO LEBANON

1. SECURITY SITUATION BEIRUT HAS IMPOROVED SINCE PHALANGE-  
PALESTINIAN FIGHTING (APRIL 13-17) IN SENSE THAT NORMAL SER-  
VICES HAVE BEEN OPERATING AND CITIZENRY ARE TRYING TO LEAD  
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RELATIVELY NORMAL LIVES. WE SAY "RELATIVELY" BECAUSE

LEBANESE ARE EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR FUTURE,  
JUMPY ABOUT THE PRESENT AND INCREASINGLY RELUCTANT TO GO  
OUT AFTER DARK. THEIR FEARS AND CONCERNS HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF ISOLATED INCIDENTS SINCE THE  
APRIL FIGGTTNG. FOR EXAMPLYE, LENGTHY EXCHANGES OF FIRE  
BETWEEN PHALANGISTS AND PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN  
TAKING PLACE IN DEKWANEH-TEL ZAATAR SUBURB MAY 19-21  
(SEE SEPTTEL. SUCH INCIDENTS APPEAR SO FAR TO BE CONFINED  
LARGELY TO BEIRUT, WITH THE REST OF THE COUNTRY RELATIVELY  
QUIET AND MOST OF IT REASONABLY SAFE FOR TRAVEL. ALTHOUGH WE  
ARE HOPEFUL, THE LOCAL SECURITY SITUATION NONETHELESS REMAINS  
UNSETTLED AND TO SOME EXTENT UNPREDICTABLE.

2. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY AGAIN RECOMMENDS  
THAT DEPT IN REPLY IN INQUIRIES, DISCOURAGE PRIVATE CITIZENS  
FROM TRAVELING TO BEIRUT FOR THE TIME BEING. WE WOULD NOT  
RECOMMEND ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE DEPT.

3. AS FAR AS OFFICIAL TRAVEL IS CONCERNED, WE SUGGEST IT  
BE CONFINED TO THOSE WHO HAVE ESSENTIAL BUSINESS.

GODLEY

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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